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Recreation Commisison Minutes 1-11-2011

Park and Recreation Commission

Minutes

Tuesday, January 11, 2011

Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, January 11, 2011.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Jen Rothenberg and Jim Robillard. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Andrew Leonard, Laura Rothman, Robin Varghese, Bob VanBenschoten, Ann Smith, and Sue Doctrow.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vitters motioned to table the minutes of the November 9th meeting. Motion was seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

No comments from the public.

Summer 2011 Fee Review

The Commission discussed the proposed 2011 summer fees with Mr. Connelly. Ms. Mayer stated that she would like the fees to remain the same, if possible, especially in these difficult fiscal times for families in the community. Mr. Connelly agreed that he would like to keep them as low as possible. Mr. Robillard stated that he could see an increase in the \$1.25 field fee if the user groups were forced to take on their own field lining. Ms. Mayer stated that she would rather see that type of increase to stop a potential loss of service.

Wellington Tennis Court Review

Landscape Architect Andrew Leonard reviewed the survey and preliminary options for the court system. The Commission discussed several lay-outs to consider. Mr. Leonard indicated the survey results on the soil were very good. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Leonard discussed making sure an independent testing lab tested the drainage. The Commission recommended that we try to maintain the current layout of the five courts.

The Commission discussed the pathway and the playground area. It was decided that the current playground equipment should be removed immediately due to safety concerns. The Commission discussed the pathway system and viewing benches.

Mr. Connelly stated that it made sense to look at tennis lights on a timer for this location. The Commission agreed and asked Mr. Leonard to investigate the cost and design. Mr. Leonard and the Commission discussed the practice hitting board. The Commission discussed not including one at this location.

Mr. Connelly asked if the driveway could be eliminated and used as an accessible path and parking. Mr. Leonard will include this in the plan.

Mr. Leonard stated that he would be going to the Conservation Commission within the next few weeks and then suggested having the public hearing.

Warrant Articles Spring 2011 Town Meeting

Mr. Connelly discussed two warrant articles - one having to do with making Spy Pond a no wake zone and one dealing with signage. Mr. Connelly stated that he was not in favor of the article restricting recreational use of the pond and had no information from the Conservation Commission that erosion was an issue.

The Commission discussed the impact this would have on the rowing program with the directors of the program. They acknowledged that this would pretty much eliminate the rowing program. The Directors of the program reviewed the program numbers and program facts and stated that they believe that voluntary guidelines can be adhered to which would minimize impact.

Ms. Mayer asked that the rowing club keep Mr. Connelly informed of the program details and review with him any changes prior to them taking place. The program will be permitted for two seasons of high school program use – fall and spring.

Off leash Implementation (Article 36) Monthly Review

Mr. Connelly reviewed the communication with the Commission from the following individuals:

- Karen Doherty – Turkey Hill
- Ellen Reed – Menotomy Rocks Park

Mr. Connelly also reviewed the summary sheet of all the complaints provided by Mr. Varghese.

Stanton Foundation and Thorndike Field OLRA Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed where the process stood with regard to the Memorandums of Understanding being signed. Mr. Connelly stated that the Town has completed its portion of the process and was waiting for A-DOG to work out their agreements with the Stanton Foundation. Ms. Doctrow reviewed her organization's concerns with the documents as currently written. The Commission and Ms. Doctrow discussed the surfacing and design issue. Ms. Doctrow pointed out several sources that stated that stone was not the preferred surface.

The Commission and Mr. Connelly discussed the best way to move the project forward. Mr. Connelly suggested that getting to the design phase was critical. The Commission agreed. Ms. Mayer discussed how A-DOG could move forward and get to the design phase. Ms. Doctrow asked Mr. Connelly for the Town's copies of the Attachment A document. Mr. Connelly stated that he would forward the document to Ms. Doctrow.

Capital Improvement Project Update

Robbins Farm Slide – Mr. Connelly shared his conversations with the Capital Planning Committee and their concerns over the design and funding for the slide. The Commission discussed these concerns. Mr. Connelly stated that he was working with landscape architect Andrew Leonard on options. Mr. Connelly stated that he has had conversations with Friends of Robbins Farm President Christian Klein who indicated the Friends would help raise \$25,000 to assist in the renovation cost. The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to the repair of the slides as a safety priority.

Rink and Recreation Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the Ed Burns Arena Renaming evening with the Commission. Mr. Connelly also reviewed the next steps with the private group raising funds for additional locker rooms and indicated that it was made clear to the group that any such project would follow the public process for planning, review and construction.

Special Requests

N/A

Other Business

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation